

SAMUEL W. SEARLES.

JANUARY 19, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HUNTER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 1330.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1330) granting a pension to Samuel W. Searles, submit the following report:

This bill proposes to pension the soldier named therein at \$30 per month.

Samuel W. Searles, now 63 years of age, served as a private in Company K, Twenty-third New York Infantry from September 16, 1861, to May 22, 1863, when honorably discharged with his company, and again as private, corporal, and sergeant in Company L, First New York Veteran Cavalry from September 19, 1863, to July 25, 1865, when honorably discharged.

Medical records show that he was under treatment in April, 1862, for debility and parotitis.

A claim to pension under the act of June 27, 1890, filed in August, 1897, and based upon sunstroke and resulting general debility, dizziness, and defective eyesight, was rejected in December, 1897, upon the ground that a pensionable disability had not existed since the filing of the claim.

A claim under the general law filed in June, 1885, in which the soldier alleged that he was sunstruck about May, 1865, and that he had suffered from the effects of the same ever since, was rejected in January, 1904, upon the ground of no record of treatment in the War Department, medical or other satisfactory evidence of origin of the disabilities in the service, existence at or for many years after the discharge, and claimant's stated inability to furnish the testimony required to establish the claim.

In an affidavit filed in 1898 the soldier alleged that the sunstroke was contracted in 1862 or 1863 while on the field; that he was taken to hospital at Washington; that he was unable to locate any of his com-

rades of his company who were with him at the time, and that he was unable to furnish the proof of his condition from the date of his discharge up to 1898, except by his wife, etc.; that he had, however, been prostrated not less than one hundred times since the occurrence of his sunstroke.

He filed medical and other testimony showing that since about 1883 he was unable to bear exposure to heat without cerebral distress and pain; that he falls unconscious like an epileptic; suffers from frequent attacks of vertigo and other cerebral affections, and that by reason of these repeated attacks his memory had at times become unreliable, etc.

Medical examination of the soldier, made in 1891, rated him \$6 for head trouble and \$2 for disease of heart, and the board of surgeons then stated that pressure on the back of the neck caused considerable spinal irritation.

When last examined, in November, 1897, the surgeons stated that his heart was somewhat irregular; that he has that peculiar appearance in the face and eyes that so many have who have never entirely recovered from sunstroke; that while fairly well nourished he shows signs of debility; that vision of the right eye was but twenty-fiftieths and of the left eye twenty-sixtieths.

There has been filed with your committee the statement of Doctor Mills, of Missoula, Mont., to the effect that the beneficiary was in such a condition that he can not perform manual labor in warm weather; that he is troubled with vertigo during the warm season, and that during the past year the vertigo had grown worse.

The statement of Mr. Dickson, also filed with your committee, sets forth that he knows of his own knowledge that the beneficiary is not in a physical condition to perform manual labor; that he is absolutely without means of support, and in addition thereto has to support his blind wife.

Your committee believes that this soldier, who rendered nearly three years of service, is so disabled as to entitle him to the maximum pension under the act of June 27, 1890, namely, \$12 per month, and relief to that extent is recommended and the bill reported back with the recommendation that it pass after the same shall have been amended as follows:

Strike out all of lines 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 and insert in lieu thereof the following:

of Samuel W. Searles, late of Company K, Twenty-third Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry, and Company L, First Regiment New York Veteran Volunteer Cavalry, and pay him a pension at the rate of twelve dollars per month.